

1 Paul B. Beach, Esq. [State Bar No. 166265]  
2 E-mail: pbeach@lbaclaw.com  
3 Aamir Raza, Esq. [State Bar No. 223530]  
4 E-mail: araza@lbaclaw.com  
5 LAWRENCE BEACH ALLEN & CHOI, PC  
6 E-mail: LBACOCstaff@lbaclaw.com  
7 959 South Coast Drive, Suite 260  
Costa Mesa, California 92626  
Telephone No.: (714) 479-0180

8 Attorneys for Defendant, CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

21 || TO THE HONORABLE COURT:

22 Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 26(f), Local Rule 16-1 and  
23 the Court’s May 20, 2024 Order setting the Rule 26(f) Scheduling Conference, the  
24 early meeting of counsel has been conducted between Hang Le, attorney for  
25 Plaintiff Dejon Hemphill (“Plaintiff”), and Aamir Raza, attorney for Defendant  
26 CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO (“Defendant”). Plaintiff and Defendant (“Parties”)  
27 discussed the nature and basis of their claims and defenses, the potential for  
28 resolving the case, the timing of initial disclosures, and a proposed discovery plan.

1 The Parties, through their counsel, respectfully submit the following Joint Report.<sup>1</sup>

2       1. Statement of the Case:

3           A. *Plaintiff's Statement of the Case.*

4       On April 2, 2023 at approximately 1:00 a.m., Plaintiff Dejon Hemphill was  
5 driving his vehicle in the City of San Bernardino, California. A traffic stop was  
6 initiated by San Bernardino Police Department officers near the Arco gas station on  
7 Mt. Vernon Avenue and 5th Street in San Bernardino, California. Plaintiff was  
8 informed that he had been pulled over allegedly due to the vehicle's tinted windows.  
9 Plaintiff told the officers that he would get his window tints fixed. Plaintiff was then  
10 forcibly removed from his vehicle and severely beaten by two San Bernardino  
11 police officers. On information and belief, the officers did not have reasonable  
12 suspicion or probable cause to detain or arrest Plaintiff. At all relevant times,  
13 Plaintiff did not pose a threat to anyone. Plaintiff suffered serious injuries to his face  
14 and body, including a broken arm that required surgery.

15       Plaintiff brought this civil rights action with the following claims for relief:

16       (1) Fourth Amendment Unreasonable Search and Seizure – Detention and Arrest (42  
17 U.S.C. § 1983); (2) Fourth Amendment Unreasonable Search and Seizure –  
18 Excessive Force (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (3) Fourth Amendment Unreasonable Search  
19 and Seizure – Denial of Medical Care (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (4) Municipal Liability  
20 for Ratification (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (5) Municipal Liability for Inadequate Training  
21 (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (6) Municipal Liability for Unconstitutional Custom or Policy  
22 (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (7) battery; (8) negligence; and (9) violation of the Bane Act

23  
24       

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<sup>1</sup> The Parties also have conferred with named Defendant County of San Bernardino,  
25 however after reviewing the City's Initial disclosures, Plaintiff has agreed to dismiss  
26 the County as a Defendant. The Parties are preparing a stipulation to dismiss the  
27 County as a Defendant and for leave for Plaintiff to file a First Amended Complaint,  
28 naming the involved officers and omitting the County as a Defendant. The  
stipulation is anticipated to be filed in conjunction to Plaintiff's response to the  
Court's June 21, 2024 Order to Show Cause.

1 (Cal. Civil Code § 52.1).

2                   B.     Defendant's Statement of the Case.

3                   On April 2, 2023, officers from the San Bernardino Police Department  
4 (“Department”) attempted to initiate a traffic stop of Plaintiff. Plaintiff initially  
5 failed to pull over, before eventually doing so two blocks later. During the stop, the  
6 officers believed that Plaintiff and his passenger may have been under the influence  
7 of a controlled substance due to their behavior and the presence of drug  
8 paraphernalia and suspected drugs throughout the vehicle. The officers noted a bag  
9 of white powder on the passenger side rear floorboard, another matching bag near  
10 the center console cup holder, and foils with a tar-like substance on them on the  
11 passenger side rear seat. There was a torch on the front portion of the center console,  
12 and aluminum foil on the front passenger side of the vehicle near the second  
13 occupant's left leg (later identified as Robert Means). The officers also observed a  
14 “6 inch by 3 inch bag full of a crystalline substance consistent with  
15 methamphetamine shoved between the rear drivers side door and seat.” Based on  
16 the above, and the belief that this quantity of drugs indicated the occupants of the  
17 vehicle were possibly involved narcotics sales and therefore may also be armed, the  
18 officers asked the occupants to exit the vehicle. Plaintiff physically resisted the  
19 officers and the officers used reasonable force to attempt to overcome Plaintiff's  
20 physical resistance. Plaintiff then fled on foot, requiring the officers to engage in a  
21 foot pursuit of him. After finally catching up with Plaintiff, Plaintiff again  
22 physically resisted the officers. Upon being secured, Plaintiff was transported for  
23 medical care. While booking the narcotics bags recovered from the incident, one of  
24 the officers was exposed to fentanyl and had to be transported to the hospital. Both  
25 officers had their body cameras on.

26                   2.     Subject Matter Jurisdiction:

27                   Plaintiff has filed federal claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and related  
28 state law claims. Accordingly, the Parties do not dispute that this Court has

1 jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 (federal question  
2 jurisdiction), 28 USC §1343 (a)(3)-(4) (original jurisdiction over civil rights claims)  
3 and 1367 (supplemental jurisdiction as to the state law claims).

4       3. Legal Issues:

- 5           A. Whether the officers used excessive force;
- 6           B. Whether the officers had reasonable suspicion for the initial  
7           detention and probable cause for the subsequent arrest;
- 8           C. Whether the City or its officers denied medical care to Plaintiff;
- 9           D. Whether the City of San Bernardino has an unconstitutional  
10           custom, practice or policy that was the moving force that caused  
11           Plaintiff's injuries;
- 12           E. Whether the City of San Bernardino failed to adequately train its  
13           officers;
- 14           F. Whether the City of San Bernardino ratified the excessive and  
15           unreasonable force, if any, used by the officers;
- 16           G. Whether the officers were negligent with respect to their handling  
17           of the situation, including using force against Plaintiff and their  
18           use of negligent tactics;
- 19           H. The nature and scope of Plaintiff's damages;
- 20           I. Entitlement to punitive damages;
- 21           J. Whether the officers would be entitled to qualified immunity  
22           or/and state law immunities;
- 23           K. Whether any or all of Plaintiff's claims are barred by a criminal  
24           conviction for his actions during the event; and
- 25           L. Whether Plaintiff failed to mitigate his alleged damages.

26       4. Parties, Evidence, etc.:

27           Parties: The Parties are Plaintiff Dejon Hemphill and Defendant City  
28 of San Bernardino.

1                   Witnesses: The percipient witnesses to the incident include Plaintiff and  
2 City of San Bernardino Police Department personnel.

3                   Additional non-percipient witnesses may include other City of San  
4 Bernardino personnel, including policy makers, investigators and medical personnel.

5                   The Parties have not yet identified all other percipient witnesses.

6                   Key Documents: The key documents include San Bernardino Police  
7 Department records regarding the incident, including but not limited to, statements,  
8 reports, and recorded interviews of Plaintiff, the officers and witnesses, investigative  
9 reports and diagrams, audio and/or video of the incident, photographs of the scene  
10 of the incident; physical evidence recovered from the scene of the incident; City of  
11 San Bernardino policies, procedures, and officer training; depositions of the Parties  
12 and witnesses; responses to written discovery; and Plaintiff's medical records.

13                   5.           Damages:

14                   A.           Plaintiff's Statement Regarding Damages:

15                   Plaintiff is seeking compensatory damages, including damages for his serious  
16 physical injuries, pain and suffering, past and future medical expenses, past and  
17 future financial loss, and past and future mental and emotional distress. Plaintiffs  
18 further seek punitive damages, attorney's fees, and costs under Plaintiff's federal  
19 claims. Plaintiff also seeks punitive damages under his state law battery and Bane  
20 Act claim and attorney's fees and costs under his Bane Act claim. Plaintiff is unable  
21 to provide an estimate of his damages at this time.

22                   B.           Defendant's Statement Regarding Damages.

23                   Defendant dispute the existence and/or extent of Plaintiff's alleged injuries  
24 and damages; including whether such damages can be attributable to the incident  
25 giving rise to the Complaint or to a subsequent or prior incident not involving  
26 Defendant. As of this time, Defendant have not received documentation supporting  
27 Plaintiff's damages estimate.

28                   6.           Insurance:

1       The City is a self-insured public entity.

2       7.     Non-Dispositive Motions:

3       There are no motions pending before the Court. As noted above, the Parties  
4 anticipate stipulating to allow Plaintiff to file an amended complaint to name the  
5 involved officers and dismiss County as a Defendant. The Parties do not anticipate  
6 a motion to transfer venue.

7       8.     Manual for Complex Litigation:

8       The Parties agree that this is not a complex case and is therefore not subject to  
9 the Manuel for Complex Litigation.

10      9.     Status of Discovery:

11      The Parties sought a protective order, which was entered by the Court on June  
12 6, 2024. Defendant made its initial disclosures on June 7, 2024, which  
13 disclosures included all of the police reports and body worn camera footage  
14 pertaining to the incident. Plaintiff anticipates making their initial disclosures on  
15 July 11, 2024. The Parties also anticipate propounding initial written discovery after  
16 the complaint is amended.

17      10.    Discovery Plan:

18      The parties have discussed the anticipated discovery and propose the non-  
19 expert discovery schedule set forth in Exhibit A hereto. This schedule was compiled  
20 based upon the trial calendars of counsel and their evaluation of the parties'  
21 discovery needs.

22      Plaintiff anticipates taking the deposition upon oral examination of the  
23 involved officers, the additional officers who responded to the scene, medical  
24 personnel, percipient witnesses, persons most knowledgeable, and Defendants'  
25 expert witnesses. Plaintiff anticipates on serving written interrogatories, requests for  
26 admission, and requests for production of documents, including on the issues of  
27 liability for excessive and unreasonable force, *Monell* liability, and related state law  
28 claims.

1       Defendants will conduct discovery regarding the facts and circumstances of  
2 the incident that forms the basis for Plaintiff's claims, including taking Plaintiff's  
3 deposition and serving written discovery requests. Discovery will also be conducted  
4 regarding Plaintiff's claimed damages, including discovery of Plaintiff's medical  
5 and employment records and related issues.

6       The parties do not foresee any issues regarding electronically stored  
7 information pursuant to Rule 26(f)(3)(C) in this case.

8       The parties will have already sought and received a protective order from the  
9 Magistrate Judge to cover discovery and exchange of confidential information.

10      The parties do not anticipate any changes to the limitations on discovery  
11 imposed by the Federal Rules at this time.

12      Discovery should be conducted in three phases: (i) fact discovery and (ii)  
13 expert discovery.

14      12. Dispositive Motions:

15      The parties have discussed potential motions and propose motion dates set  
16 forth in the attached schedule. Plaintiff anticipates filing motions *in limine* to  
17 exclude evidence at trial. Depending on the Court's rulings on these evidentiary  
18 issues, Plaintiff may seek bifurcation of liability from damages at trial.

19      Defendant anticipates bringing dispositive motions on all causes of action,  
20 including to address qualified immunity, that Plaintiff cannot meet its burden under  
21 *Monell* and that no constitutional violation occurred. Defendants further anticipate  
22 bringing *in limine* motions, as necessary, based on the remaining claims and  
23 damages if any. Defendants may seek to trifurcate trial into separate phases with  
24 respect to the individual Defendants' liability, *Monell* liability, and the amount of  
25 punitive damages.

26      13. Settlement/Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):

27      The parties have not yet engaged in substantive settlement discussions as  
28 Defendant has not been apprised of the extent of Plaintiff's claimed damages and

1 Plaintiff is still reviewing Defendant's Initial Disclosures, but are amenable to doing  
2 so following a period of discovery. The parties are agreeable to participating in  
3 ADR Procedure No. 2 (appearance before neutral selected from Court's Mediation  
4 Panel). The parties will select a mutually-agreed upon neutral, and have  
5 commenced discussions of acceptable mediators.

6       14. Consent to Magistrate Judge:

7       Defendant and their counsel have discussed the Magistrate Consent Program  
8 and are amenable to proceeding before one of several magistrates. Plaintiff and his  
9 counsel have also discussed the Magistrate Consent Program and Plaintiff is not  
10 amenable to proceeding before a magistrate judge. Counsel for the Parties met and  
11 conferred regarding the Magistrate Consent Program during their early conference  
12 of counsel.

13       15. Trial Estimate:

14       Both Parties have requested a jury trial and both estimate that the trial will  
15 take approximately five (5) to seven (7) days, including *voir dire*, opening  
16 statements, closing arguments, and time reasonably anticipated that will be spent on  
17 discussions regarding jury instructions and verdict forms outside the presence of the  
18 jury. At this time, the parties cannot accurately anticipate how many witnesses they  
19 will call in this particular matter, but based on similar litigation and the facts known  
20 to date, the parties estimate calling approximately 6-10 witnesses per side.

21       16. Trial Counsel:

22       Dale K. Galipo (lead counsel) and Hang Le from the Law Offices of Dale K.  
23 Galipo will try this case for Plaintiff.

24       Aamir Raza (lead counsel) and Paul B. Beach will try this case for Defendant.

25       17. Independent Expert:

26       The parties agree that this case does not require an independent expert.

27       18. Timetable:

28       Per the Court's order setting the Scheduling Conference, the parties have

1 attached "Exhibit A: Schedule of Pretrial and Trial Dates Worksheet" hereto. This  
2 case is "Medium Level" per the Court's Scheduling Order as it is a civil rights  
3 matter. The dates in Exhibit A have been calculated accordingly. While the parties  
4 attempted to comply as closely to the Court's "Medium Level" deadlines as much as  
5 possible, Plaintiff is unable to comply with the timetable deadline for trial due to  
6 Plaintiff's lead trial counsel's trial schedule and calendar conflicts. The earliest date  
7 Mr. Galipo is available for trial after the proposed Final Pretrial Conference is  
8 August 25, 2025. Defendant confirms that they are amenable to the August 25,  
9 2025 trial date.

10 19. Other Issues:

11 At this time, there are no other issues which require the Court's attention.

12  
13 Respectfully submitted,  
14 LAWRENCE BEACH ALLEN & CHOI, PC  
15

16 Dated: June 27, 2024 By /s/ Aamir Raza  
17 PAUL B. BEACH  
18 AAMIR RAZA<sup>2</sup>  
19 Attorneys for Defendant  
CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO

20 LAW OFFICE OF DALE K. GALIPO  
21

22 Dated: June 27, 2024 By /s/ Hang D. Le  
23 DALE K. GALIPO  
24 HANG D. LE  
25 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
DEJON HEMPHILL  
26

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>2</sup> I, Aamir Raza, hereby attest that all the signatories listed, and on whose behalf the  
filing is submitted, concur in the content of this Stipulation and have authorized its  
filing.

## EXHIBIT A

**EXHIBIT A: SCHEDULE OF PRETRIAL AND TRIAL DATES WORKSHEET**

3	Case No.	5:24-cv-00825-KK-DTB
4	Case Name	<i>HEMPHILL v. CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO</i>
5	Matter	Deadline (in weeks/months after scheduling conference)
6	Last Day to Stipulate or File Motion to Amend Pleadings or Add New Parties	Medium Level: 4-7 weeks
7		August 15, 2024
8	Fact Discovery Cut-Off (including hearing of discovery motions)	Medium Level: 3-6 months
9		January 13, 2025
10	Matter	Deadline (in weeks after fact discovery cutoff)
11	Last Day to Serve Initial Expert Reports	Medium Level: 2 weeks
12		January 27, 2025
13	Last Day to Serve Rebuttal Expert Reports	Medium Level: 4 weeks
14		February 10, 2025
15	Expert Discovery Cut-Off (including hearing of discovery motions)	Medium Level: 6-7 weeks
16		March 3, 2025
17	Motion Hearing Cut-Off	Medium Level: 11-12 weeks
18		April 3, 2025
19	Last Day to Conduct Settlement Proceedings	Medium Level: 11-12 weeks
20		<p>[ ] Magistrate Judge  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mediation Panel  [ ] Private Mediation</p> <p>Requested date: April 7, 2025</p>
21	Final Pretrial Conference [L.R. 16] (Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.) – Eighteen (18) days before trial date)	Medium Level: 15-20 weeks
22		June 5, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.
23		
24	Trial (Mondays at 8:30 a.m.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jury Trial <input type="checkbox"/> Court Trial  Estimate: 5-7 days  Requested Date: August 25, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.
25		
26		
27		
28		